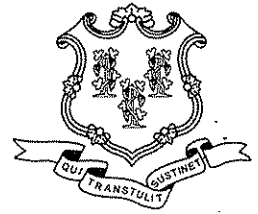




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
**Department of
Information Technology**



State of Connecticut Department of Information Technology

Chief Information Officer Diane S. Wallace

Testimony before the General Law Committee

February 24, 2009

Chairmen Colapietro and Shapiro, and Honorable Members of the General Law Committee, I am Diane S. Wallace, Chief Information Officer of the State of Connecticut Department of Information Technology.

I thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today in favor of SB 838, An Act Concerning Consumer Privacy and Identity Theft.

First, I would like to thank Governor Rell for her leadership in establishing the Task Force on Identity Theft, a task force on which I was proud to serve. SB 838 incorporates the Task Force's recommendations.

It builds on the progress made last year with the passage of Public Act 08-167.

It retains the enhanced criminal penalties, employer protections and expanded enforcement authority provided to the Department of Consumer Protection.

It adds greater penalties for identify theft crimes against senior citizens and criminal impersonation. It also requires that all proceeds derived from identity theft crimes be deposited in the privacy protection guaranty and enforcement account.

We continue to support these provisions and believe they are essential steps to heighten protection for consumers and citizens.

As the State's lead agency for technology, DOIT is well aware of the increasing threats and dangers in the world of cyberspace. We take data protection seriously, and understand the need for additional protections for those -- including the elderly -- who may be most vulnerable to identify theft.

DOIT's existing data center stores more than 2.4 petabytes of data and is the host site for more than 100 statewide and agency applications. It also connects to 1000 points statewide.

Protecting this data and systems is essential. DOIT deployed new firewalls, and intrusion prevention and detection tools, and has blocked more than four million intrusions/threats alone between FY 2006 and FY 2008.

DOIT upgraded its anti-virus systems and blocked 603,442 attacks across 30 agencies and 10,000 devices. We also have deployed new tools to monitor/analyze State network traffic and continued our multi-year oversight of state HIPAA compliance program for ten state agencies for security of electronic health records.

As you know, in 2007 Governor M. Jodi Rell announces a new statewide security policy governing laptop and mobile computing devices as well as storage devices. The policy requires any data residing on a mobile device to be encrypted, limits the amount of data and length of time it may reside on the mobile device, and requires protections from unauthorized access and disclosure.

Governor Rell ordered and DOIT executed an accelerate laptop encryption effort, which resulted in more than 6000 laptops being encrypted in 65 agencies. It was an unprecedented enterprise IT security mobilization involving collaboration between agencies and IT professionals throughout the executive branch.

These are just a few of our initiatives designed to heighten protections of sensitive data and we pledge to continue these efforts.

We ask for your favorable consideration of SB 838 and thank you again for your continued leadership.

Thank you.